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In the claims:

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Claims 1-11 cancelled.

12. (currently amended) A cordless screwdriver with a charging cradle assembly comprising, the cordless screwdriver including a housing, a handle, charging contact tabs, and an output spindle; and the rechargeable battery having charging contacts, the cordless screwdriver and the rechargeable battery being configured so that the cordless screwdriver as a whole being placeable onto the charging cradle which automatically initiates a charging mode and in the charging mode being positioned on the charging cradle so that the housing of the cordless screwdriver is inclined relative to a perpendicular horizontal plane and an end of said output spindle points downward.

13. (previously presented) A cordless screwdriver with a charging cradle assembly as defined in Claim 12, wherein said handle is angled relative to said housing in pistol fashion.

14. (previously presented) A cordless screwdriver with a charging cradle assembly as defined in Claim 12, wherein said housing and said handle are configured so that in the charging mode said housing and said handle are received in the charging cradle.

15. (previously presented) A cordless screwdriver with a charging cradle assembly as defined in Claim 12, wherein said handle is configured so that in the charging mode it protrudes out from the charging cradle to permit a hand to easily grasp said handle from underneath and/or reach all the way around it in order to remove the cordless screwdriver.

16. (previously presented) A cordless screwdriver with a charging cradle assembly as defined in claim 12, wherein said handle has lateral slots, said charging contact tabs protruding outwards through said lateral slots for engagement with charging contacts of the charging cradle without requiring an attachment of a separate cable or a plug connector.

17. (previously presented) A cordless screwdriver with a charging cradle assembly as defined in claim 16, wherein said housing with said handle are composed of two casting halves which are joined to each other along a central plane, each of said slots and a recess surrounding said slots being situated in one of said casting halves and spaced equidistantly apart from said central plane.

18. (previously presented) A cordless screwdriver with a charging cradle assembly as defined in claim 12, wherein said handle has recesses configured so that in the charging mode the cordless screwdriver rests with said recesses in said handle so as to cover charging contacts of the charging cradle

and by engaging over the charging contacts is secured against an undesired detachment from the charging cradle.

19. (previously presented) A cordless screwdriver with a charging cradle assembly as defined in claim 12, wherein the charging cradle has a top provided with beds for accommodating the cordless screwdriver and corresponding to an imprint of outer surfaces of an inner angle enclosed by said handle and said housing, which said housing is composed of a motor housing and a transmission housing, at least one of the beds extending at an inclination of less than 90°.

20. (previously presented) A cordless screwdriver with a charging cradle assembly as defined in claim 12, wherein said charging cradle has a bed in which said handle protrudes in wedge fashion with only its on/off button and said handle itself protrudes from the charging cradle and is only minimally inserted into said bed.

21. (previously presented) A cordless screwdriver with a charging cradle assembly as defined in claim 12, wherein the cradle is formed so that it is placeable in a stable fashion on a flat supporting surface without having to mount the charging cradle in place or hold it when removing the cordless screwdriver.

22. (previously presented) A cordless screwdriver with a charging cradle assembly as defined in claim 21, wherein the charging cradle is configured so that it is placeable in a stable fashion on the flat supporting surface which is a horizontal supporting surface.

23. (previously presented) A cordless screwdriver with a charging cradle assembly as defined in claim 12; and further comprising an on/off button which extends over substantially an entire length of said handle and with an actuating stroke of 1-5 mm is actuatable to switch on at any point along its length.

24. (previously presented) A cordless screwdriver with a charging cradle assembly as defined in claim 23, wherein said on/off button is configured so that it is actuatable with the short actuation stroke of 2 mm.

25. (previously presented) A cordless screwdriver with a charging cradle assembly as defined in claim 12, wherein said housing has casing halves; and further comprising a circuit board for accommodating electrical contacts and control elements and extending lengthwise in said handle so as to be held in clamp fashion by said casting halves of said housing and to stiffen said housing.

26. (previously presented) A cordless screwdriver with a charging cradle assembly as defined in claim 12, wherein said housing is composed of

casing halves, said handle on each side of said casing half having a rubber covering that covers a large area, bulges outward, and is provided with a nubbed structure.

27. (previously presented) A cordless screwdriver with a charging cradle assembly as defined in claim 12, wherein said housing has a motor housing and a transmission housing, said handle, said motor housing and said transmission housing being configured so that they are receivable in the charging cradle to be held in the charging cradle during the charging mode.

28. (previously presented) A cordless screwdriver with a charging cradle assembly as defined in claim 12, wherein said housing has a motor housing and a transmission housing, said motor housing and said transmission housing being configured so that they are receivable in the charging cradle to be held in the charging cradle during the charging mode.

29. (previously presented) A cordless screwdriver and a charging cradle assembly as defined in Claim 12, wherein said handle of said cordless screwdriver is angled relative to said housing in pistol fashion and configured so that in the charging the mode when said cordless screwdriver as a whole is placed onto the charging cradle, said housing and said handle of said cordless screwdriver are inclined at different opposite angles relative to the horizontal plane.